

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 DRC-01

/102 W

----- 026790

O 241528Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9396

INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, FR

SUBJECT: CABINET SPECULATION

1. SUMMARY. GISCARD'S CABINET -- TO BE ANNOUNCED MAY 27 OR 28 -- IS EXPECTED TO BE RELATIVELY SMALL, FEATURE YOUNGER MEN AND WOMEN, AND PROJECT AN IMAGE OF CHANGE. GISCARD HAS APPARENTLY MADE NO PROMISES AND IS GUARDING HIS CABINET LIST WELL. WE REPORT THE LATEST RUMORS. END SUMMARY.

2. MOST POPULAR GAME IN PARIS POLITICAL CIRCLES THIS WEEK HAS BEEN SPECULATION ON COMPOSITION OF GISCARD'S GOVERNMENT WHICH HE WILL ANNOUNCE MAY 27 OR 28. FROM EVIDENCE WE HAVE, IT APPEARS THAT GISCARD HAS MADE NO SPECIFIC PROMISES TO ANYONE, ALTHOUGH HE HAS GIVEN A NUMBER OF CLOSE ASSOCIATES THE IMPRESSION THEY WILL BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON HIS TEAM.

3. GISCARD'S CONCEPT OF THE PRESIDENCY PLUS TACTICAL AND SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS HE WILL FACE AS PRESIDENT LEAD US TO BELIEVE HE WILL FOLLOW CERTAIN GENERAL PRINCIPLES IN FORMING HIS GOVERNMENT. FOR PRIME MINISTER, GISCARD NEEDS AN ABLE, EXPERIENCED YET EXPENDABLE PERSON -- WHO COULD BE EITHER POLITICAL OR NON-POLITICAL FIGURE -- TOUGH ENOUGH TO TAKE ON THE UDR, IF NECESSARY, AND WHO CAN PUSH HARD OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS TO MAKE GOOD ON SOME OF GISCARD'S CAMPAIGN PROMISES, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF SOCIAL REFORM. IN THE KEY POSTS OF FOREIGN MINISTER, INTERIOR MINISTER, DEFENSE MINISTER AND FINANCE MINISTER GISCARD WILL WANT MEN WILLING TO FOLLOW HIS LEAD. SECONDLY, HE WILL WANT YOUNGER CABINET SELECTIONS, INCLUDING MORE WOMEN, TO ILLUSTRATE HIS STRONG COMMITMENT TO A POLICY OF CHANGE. THIRDLY, LIKE ALL ELECTED HEADS OF STATE HE WILL NEED TO PAY POLITICAL DEBTS TO KEY SUPPORTERS. GISCARD HAS GUARDED HIS CABINET LIST WELL. FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE MORE EDUCATED SPECULATION WE HAVE BEEN HEARING -- WITH THE CAVEAT THAT THESE ARE ONLY RUMORS, AND EVEN THE EMBASSY'S BEST SOURCES ADMIT THEY HAVE NO HARD INFORMATION.

4. PRIME MINISTER. JACQUES CHIRAC CURRENTLY APPEARS TO BE THE FRONT RUNNER ALTHOUGH WE HAVE HEARD A DOZEN NAMES MENTIONED. CHIRAC'S APPOINTMENT TO THE TOP JOB WOULD AROUSE IRE OF THOSE CHABANISTS IN THE GAULLIST CAMP WHO HAVE NOT FORGIVEN HIM FOR HIS EFFORTS IN LEADING THE "GROUP OF 43" AGAINST CHABAN'S CANDIDACY. AMONG THE "POLITICIANS," HOUSING AND EQUIPMENT MINISTER OLIVIER GUICHARD, DEFENSE MINISTER ROBERT GALLEY, EDUCATION MINISTER JOSEPH FONTANET AND INFORMATION MINISTER JEAN-PHILIPPE LECAT HAVE ALSO BEEN MENTIONED AS POSSIBILITIES. AMONG THE "TECHNOCRATS," THE RUMORS INCLUDE TREASURY DIRECTOR CLAUDE PIERRE-BROSSOLETTE, PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL ECONOMICS AND GENERAL COUNSEL OF BANK OF FRANCE RAYMOND BARRE, AND GISCARD'S CLOSE ASSOCIATE JEAN SERISE.

5. FOREIGN MINISTRY. MOST OBSERVERS GENERALLY TAKE IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR GRANTED THAT JOBERT WILL NOT STAY BECAUSE HE HAS BECOME TOO CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH AN ABRASIVE TONE IN FRENCH FOREIGN POLICY WHICH GISCARD WILL WANT TO CHANGE, AND BECAUSE HE AND GISCARD DO NOT GET ALONG WELL PERSONALLY. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT COMPLETELY RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT JOBERT MIGHT STAY ON. OTHER POSSIBILITIES FOR THE QUAI D'ORSAY INCLUDE SECRETARY OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS JEAN-FRANCOIS DENIAU, DEPUTY-MAYOR  
OF DEAUVILLE AND PRESIDENT OF THE INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN  
(IR) GROUP IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MICHEL D'ORNANO,  
INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN DEPUTY AND FORMER MINISTER  
DELEGATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ANDRE BETTENCOURT,  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL BANK OF  
FRANCE AND GISCARD'S FORMER CABINET DIRECTOR JACQUES  
CALVET, GUICHARD AND BARRE.

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6. INTERIOR. THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT INTERIOR  
WILL PROBABLY GO TO MICHEL PONIATOWSKI, WHO WILL  
CONTINUE TO FUNCTION AS GISCARD'S LOYAL LIEUTENANT AND  
NUMBER ONE POLITICIAN. OR CHIRAC COULD STAY IF HE IS

NOT NAMED PRIME MINISTER.

7. DEFENSE. SOME CHANCE THAT GALLEY MIGHT STAY; COULD ALSO GO TO OLIVIER GUICHARD OR MAX LEJEUNE.

8. ECONOMICS AND FINANCE. A LESS POPULAR POSITION, PARTICULARLY AS THE NEW MAN WILL BE JUDGED AS TO HOW WELL HE FILLS GISCARD'S SHOES. NAMES WE HAVE HEARD SERIOUSLY MENTIONED INCLUDE PIERRE-BROSSOLETTE, SERISE, ALBIN CHALANDON, PONIATOWSKI, CHIRAC AND BARRE. AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERESTING QUESTION IS WHETHER OR NOT GISCARD WILL BREAK THIS MINISTRY UP INTO SEPARATE MINISTRIES OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCE. DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN, BOTH CHABAN AND MITTERRAND ATTACKED THE MINISTRY AS A STATE WITHIN A STATE AND PLEDGED TO BREAK IT UP. ANOTHER PROPOSAL FOR REDUCING THE POWER OF THE MINISTRY WHICH IS FREQUENTLY HEARD THESE DAYS IS TO TRANSFER THE BUREAU OF THE BUDGET FROM THE FINANCE MINISTRY TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. WE DO NOT KNOW GISCARD'S VIEWS ON EITHER OF THESE PROPOSALS. HE MIGHT BE RELUCTANT TO BREAK UP THE MINISTRY SINCE THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE AC-

QUIESCING IN HIS OPPONENTS' CRITICISMS, WHICH WERE INDIRECTLY CRITICISMS OF HIS OWN CONDUCT OF THE OFFICE. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE MIGHT, AS PRESIDENT, WELCOME THE IDEA AS A WAY OF FACILITATING HIS OWN CONTROL OVER THIS CRUCIAL ELEMENT OF NATIONAL POLICY AND PREVENTING THE EMERGENCE OF AN AUTONOMOUS CENTER OF POWER.

9. JUSTICE. LIKELY TO GO TO JEAN LECANUET, ALTHOUGH TAITTINGER MIGHT STAY. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY IS PIERRE ABELIN.

10. EDUCATION. COULD GO TO LECANUET IF HE DOES NOT GET JUSTICE; OR FONTANET COULD STAY.

11. SOCIAL AFFAIRS (MIGHT COMBINE PRESENT MINISTRIES OF LABOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH). PROBABLY LECANUET, IF HE DOES NOT GET JUSTICE. FONTANET IS ANOTHER POSSIBILITY.

12. AGRICULTURE. POSSIBLY CHIRAC, IF HE DOES NOT GET A HIGHER POST, OR COULD GO TO JEAN-PIERRE SOISSON OR PIERRE LELONG.

13. INFORMATION. THE THREE PRIME CANDIDATES ARE D'ORNANO, HUBERT GERMAIN AND DENIS BAUDOUIN.

14. LABOR (IF A SEPARATE MINISTRY). POSSIBLY COULD

GO TO CHABAN-DELMAS' FORMER COLLABORATOR JACQUES DELORS.

15. OVERSEAS TERRITORIES. PROBABLY SOISSON.  
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16. EQUIPMENT AND HOUSING. PROBABLY CHRISTIAN BONNET.

17. SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE ELYSEE. PROBABLY SERISE.

18. GISCARD DURING THE CAMPAIGN INDICATED HE WILL HAVE SEVERAL WOMEN IN HIS GOVERNMENT, AND HE COULD GIVE ONE OF THEM A MINISTRY. NAMES BEING MENTIONED INCLUDE ANNE-MARIE FRITSCH, CLAUDE DE GRANRUT, FLORENCE D'HARCOURT AND CHANTAL MALAUD.

19. OTHERS WHO MAY BE IN THE GOVERNMENT: MICHEL DURAFOUR, OLIVIER STIRN, HENRI TORRE, ALAIN TERRENOIRE, ETIENNE DAILLY. IT APPEARS THAT ROGER CHINAUD WILL NOT BE GIVEN A MINISTERIAL POSITION BUT INSTEAD WILL WORK FULL TIME ON IR PARTY MATTERS.  
STONE

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## Message Attributes

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